

efforts.—MALCOLM G. MCLEOD, Biological Sciences Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

Colorado Flora: Western Slope. By WILLIAM A. WEBER. Colorado Associated University Press, Boulder, CO. 1987. 530 pp. Hardbound. \$19.50. ICBN 0-87081-167-3.

This handy-sized field guide is an expression of the author's broad knowledge of plants worldwide and years of field experience. The format is easy to use by the amateur (or the professional) and includes a glossary, 64 color plates and more than 100 line drawings. The flora includes all vascular plants (ferns and fern allies, gymnosperms, and angiosperms) of the "entire hydrologic Western Slope of Colorado—from the Continental Divide to the Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexican borders." Each major group is presented in alphabetical sequence, in turn, by family, genus, and species. Families bear descriptions, but lower level taxa are mostly described only in the keys.

This guide is very similar to its earlier version, *The Rocky Mountain Flora* (Weber, W. A., 1972, Colorado Assoc. Univ. Press, Boulder), but now includes more taxa in its larger geography, more numerous and better detailed illustrations, and more realistic family treatments of ferns and gymnosperms. The generic treatment will probably disturb certain users. Many genera have been subdivided (even more so than in the earlier version), apparently due to the author's belief in narrow generic concepts and his worldwide knowledge of certain plant groups. He may be justified for these changes, but for those familiar with floras of the surrounding states, many new generic names will be hard to translate because the full direct synonyms used in the earlier version are no longer present; usually there is only a note to indicate in which genus it was formerly included. I believe that it is the duty of the author to defend the position (however correct) from commonly used scientific names.

In general, I am much concerned about the diverse treatments of generic circumscription by taxonomists. Obviously the taxonomist must have freedom of expression and judgement, but I am concerned when certain genera are split and reunited repeatedly generation after generation. One suggestion might be that generic delimitation should (must?) include major differences in reproductive structures, not to be distinguished by vegetative characters alone, e.g., *Berberis* vs. *Mahonia*; *Euphorbia* vs. *Chamaesyce*, *Poinsettia*, etc.; *Fouquieria* vs. *Idria*; *Potentilla* vs. *Argentina*; *Opuntia* vs. *Cylindropuntia*; and so on.

I recommend this flora despite nomenclature inconveniences; the book size is right; the quality is good, and the price is right.—DONALD J. PINKAVA, Department of Botany, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1601.

Trees and Shrubs of Trans-Pecos Texas. By A. MICHAEL POWELL. 1988. Big Bend Natural History Association, Big Bend National Park, TX. 536 pp. \$19.95 (paperbound) ISBN 0-912001-14-3.

Trees and Shrubs of Trans-Pecos Texas is a complete and professional treatment of the woody plants west of the Pecos River in Texas. It begins with a short description of the area, including climate, soils, topography, and major vegetation types. A map of the counties and major topographic features clearly defines the area covered in the manual. Each of the five vegetation types in the Trans-Pecos is described using both common and scientific names for the dominant plant species and illustrated with photographs. The introduction is followed by a floristic treatment that includes keys to families, genera, and species as well as family and generic descriptions. Species accounts consist of fairly detailed distribution information and usually some interesting facts about the plant, ranging from economic uses to newly discovered localities. Most species are illustrated in fine pen and ink drawings showing vegetative, floral, and fruiting features. Common names and a short glossary are provided to aid novices.

The manual is quite comprehensive and includes many slightly woody perennial herbs in addition to trees and shrubs. The nomenclature is up to date with only a